

generations, a distinction that could be achieved only as a result of U.S. involvement in a war.

Sadly, this would not be the case. Since that first "Veterans Day", subsequent tyranny and human rights violations around the world have continued to test the commitment of our Nation's men and women in uniform. In the horror and devastation of the battles to defend freedom and human dignity since World War I, more than 30 million Americans have risked everything. All who served were heroes in their own right, and to each of them we owe our thanks, our thoughts and our prayers this Veterans Day. Of this multitude of patriots, only 811 received the Medal of Honor. So incredible were their acts of courage that only 316 of them survived to wear this highest honor.

It is often said that the youth of our Nation today need real heroes, men and women of patriotism and integrity, examples of sacrifice and service; that they can look up to and emulate. We who are of generations past can lament the loss of great Americans such as Sgt. York, Jimmie Doolittle, Audie Murphy, and other heroes of our childhood. But I am happy to report that today there are still many heroes and heroines in our land, men and women who embody the principles and character that have created and preserved the United States. Among those role models are the millions of veterans that we honor today, and among those veterans of military service are 163 surviving Medal of Honor heroes. Today, as we honor all our Nation's veterans, I would like to pay special homage to our New Mexican Medal of Honor winners.

On November 30, 1913, Robert Sheldon Scott was born here in the Nation's capital. His family later moved to California where Bob Scott attended school before moving again to my own State of New Mexico. Bob Scott answered his Nation's call to duty to serve during World War II.

On June 30, 1943, Gen. Douglas MacArthur and Adm. William Halsey launched "Operation Cartwheel", a bold two-pronged offensive to gain control of Rabul in the Pacific. On the day, Admiral Halsey landed the 43rd Infantry Division on the New Georgia in the Solomon Islands for the purpose of capturing the Japanese-held Munda airstrip. Underestimating the jungles of the island and the tenacity of its Japanese defenders, Halsey expected the campaign to last only 2 weeks. By mid-July the Admiral was forced to land two more divisions on the island, and the attack on the airstrip resumed with new fervor on July 25. More than 1,000 Americans would give up their lives in the effort.

By July 27, the 43d Infantry's 172d Regiment bogged down in front of a salient facing the Munda airstrip. Battle-weary and demoralized from 27 days of bitter fighting, the well-entrenched enemy seemed to have again halted the

advance. Two days later, a squad from the 172d's 1st Battalion again assaulted the hill. Young Army Lt. Robert Scott led his men halfway up the hill to a position within 75 yards of the enemy, when the Japanese counterattack stopped them. Enemy soldiers rose from their fortifications firing their rifles and throwing grenades. Their fierce attack threw the exhausted Americans off the hill. Except for Lieutenant Scott.

Ducking behind the blasted remains of a tree stump, the brave lieutenant had an unobstructed view of the enemy bunkers. Despite being twice wounded and once having his rifle shot from his hand, for the next half hour, Lieutenant Scott stood alone on the hill to repulse the enemy. Throwing some 30 grenades, his one-man stand ended the enemy assault and caused them to withdraw. His Medal of Honor citation concludes with the notation that "our troops, inspired to renewed effort by Lieutenant Scott's intrepid stand and incomparable courage, swept across the plateau to capture the hill, and from this strategic position, four days later, captured Munda airstrip."

Of his award, Mr. Scott recently wrote, "I was awarded the Medal of Honor in World War II for deeds one day as a Second Lieutenant infantry platoon leader, deeds that I initiated at least in part from the conviction that I ought to have enough guts to do what I was authorized to order a sergeant or private soldier to try to do."

Today, Bob Scott still lives in the town of his youth, Santa Fe, NM. He is one of four of my State's living Medal of Honor heroes. The ninth oldest of our Nation's living Medal of Honor recipients, on the 30th day of this month, he will celebrate his 84th birthday. Our Governor, the Honorable Gary Johnson, has declared that day to be "Colonel Robert Scott Day" throughout our State.

Other Medal of Honor recipients from New Mexico contributed similar deeds of valor. Corporal Miyamura of Gallup was with Company H holding a defensive position near Taejon-ni, Korea in April 1951. When the enemy began to overrun his position, Corporal Miyamura left his sheltered position and engaged the enemy in hand-to-hand combat, then returned to his position to tend to the wounded. Under attack again, Corporal Miyamura manned two machine-guns to provide covering fire while his squad withdrew. He killed more than 50 enemy soldiers before his ammunition was depleted and he was severely wounded.

Second Lt. Raymond Murphy served as a platoon commander of Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division in action against the enemy west of Panmunjom, Korea. Wounded by artillery fire, Lieutenant Murphy refused medical aid while leading his men up a well-defended hill through a withering barrage of enemy fire. Murphy rescued many of his fallen comrades and returned each time to lead

the assault and provide cover for his troops. While all the wounded evacuated and the assaulting units began to disengage, he remained behind with a carbine to cover the movement of friendly forces off the hill. After reaching the base of the hill, he organized a search party and again ascended the slope for a final check on missing Marines, locating and carrying the bodies of a machine-gun crew down the hill. Wounded a second time, he again refused medical assistance until he was certain that all of his men had been safely evacuated.

Sgt. Louis Richard Rocco of Albuquerque served in Vietnam as a medic northeast of Katum. While evacuating wounded comrades, Sergeant Rocco directed fire against the enemy to enable a helicopter to land and assist in the operation. In the battle, the helicopter was disabled by enemy fire and crashed. Sergeant Rocco continued to direct covering fire while personally extracting survivors from the helicopter and carrying them to safety through dense foliage and enemy fire.

It is said, "Poor is the nation that has no heroes or heroines, but beggard is the nation that has and forgets them." On this day, our Nation has set aside to remember our veterans, as I stand before the same body that established the Medal of Honor, I offer this special salute to Col. Robert S. Scott, Cpl. Hiroshi H. Miyamura, 2d Lt. Raymond G. Murphy, and Sgt. Louis Richard Rocco—great citizens of the State of New Mexico and the Nation.●

ASIAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION ACT

● Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, on Wednesday, November 5, the Asian Elephant Conservation Act passed the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee with unanimous support. I am hopeful that this important bill, introduced by Senator JEFFORDS, will ensure that the children of the world will not miss out on these extraordinary mammals.

The Asian Elephant Conservation Act is constructed along the lines of the successful African Elephant Conservation Act. I have been heartened to learn that the African Elephant Act is producing positive results. I am hopeful that the Asian Elephant Conservation Act will likewise support research, conservation, anti-poaching education, and protection of the animals. I feel strongly, however, that no funds allocated by these Acts are spent to promote efforts to resume the ivory trade or to encourage trophy hunting.

According to a 1996 nationwide poll, 84 percent of Americans support efforts to protect elephants, yet I have learned that some of the funds from the African Elephant Conservation Act have gone toward the promotion of elephant trophy hunting. There is ongoing debate about the success and appropriateness of US taxpayer dollars being used to support such activities, and I look

forward to learning more about this troublesome issue in the coming months.

For the time being, however, I wish to ask my colleagues for quick support and passage of the Asian Elephant Conservation Act. I am honored to be a co-sponsor of the bill, and look forward to finding more ways to protect and conserve endangered species, both in the United States and abroad.●

APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, pursuant to Public Law 105-56, and on behalf of the majority leader, announces the appointment of the following individuals as members of the Panel to Review Long-Range Air Power: Samuel A. Adcock, of Virginia, and Merrill A. McPeak, of Oregon.

JOINT REFERRAL OF NOMINATION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the nomination of Donald J. Barry, of Wisconsin, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, sent to the Senate by the President on November 7, 1997, be referred jointly to the Committees on Energy and Natural Resources and Environment and Public Works.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREE- MENT—House Joint Resolution 101

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate receives House Joint Resolution 101 making continuing appropriations through Sunday, the joint resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, all without further action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SE- CRETACY—TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 105-32

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the injunction of secrecy be removed from the following treaty transmitted to the Senate on November 7, 1997, by the President of the United States: South Pacific Regional Environment Programme Agreement (Treaty Document No. 105-32). I further ask unanimous consent that the treaty be considered as having been read the first time; that it be referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The message of the President is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, for the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, the Agreement Establishing the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, done at Apia on June 16, 1993 ("the Agreement"). The report of the Department of State with respect to the Agreement is attached for the information of the Senate.

The South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) has existed for almost 15 years to promote cooperation in the South Pacific region, to protect and improve the South Pacific environment and to ensure sustainable development in that region. Prior to the Agreement, SPREP had the status of an informal institution housed within the South Pacific Commission. When this institutional arrangement began to prove inefficient, the United States and the nations of the region negotiated the Agreement to allow SPREP to become an intergovernmental organization in its own right and enhance its ability to promote cooperation among its members.

The Agreement was concluded in June 1993 and entered into force in August 1995. Nearly every nation—except the United States—that has participated in SPREP and in the negotiation of the Agreement is now party to the Agreement. As a result, SPREP now enjoys a formal institutional status that allows it to deal more effectively with the pressing environmental concerns of the region. The United States and its territories can only participate in its activities as official observers.

The Agreement improves the ability of SPREP to serve the interests of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam. Its ratification is supported by our territories and will demonstrate continued United States commitment to, and concern for, the South Pacific region.

Under its terms, the Agreement entered into force on August 31, 1995. To date, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Western Samoa have become parties to the Agreement.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Agreement and give its advice and consent to ratification.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, November 7, 1997.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 1414

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I understand that S. 1414, which was introduced earlier today by Senator McCain, is at the desk. I now ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1414) to reform and restructure the processes by which tobacco products are

manufactured, marketed, and distributed, to prevent the use of tobacco products by minors, to redress the adverse health effects of tobacco use, and for other purposes.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I now ask for its second reading and object to my own request on behalf of the other side of the aisle.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

AMENDING TITLE I OF THE EM- PLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Labor Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1377, and further that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1377) to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to encourage retirement income savings.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 1612

(Purpose: To amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to promote retirement income savings through the establishment of an outreach program in the Department of Labor and periodic National Summits on Retirement Savings)

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, Senator GRASSLEY has a substitute amendment at the desk, and I ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT], FOR MR. GRASSLEY, proposes an amendment numbered 1612.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's Record under "Amendments Submitted.")

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, almost 7 months ago, my colleague and I, Senator JOHN BREAU, introduced S. 757, legislation identical to H.R. 1377. This legislation—the Savings Are Vital to Everyone's Retirement Act or SAVER—is now ready for passage in the Senate and ultimately signature of the President. While it took a little longer than I had hoped—it is still a timely and vital piece of legislation.

When I introduced the bill back in May, I cited some statistics on the dismal level of savings by individuals in this country. I said that only about one-third of American workers had calculated how much they will need to save by retirement in order to maintain their standard of living. I said that workers in the 40's to the early 50's had seen their savings levels drop by 6 percent from 1988 to 1994.